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Programme planning

Proposed strategic framework for the period 2008-2009

Part two: biennial programme plan

Programme 5
Peaceful uses of outer space

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* A/61/50 and Corr.1.

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Overall orientation

5.1 The overall purpose of the programme is the promotion of international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space for economic, social and scientific development, in particular for the benefit of developing countries. The programme evolved as a result of the recognition, by the General Assembly in its resolution 1348 (XIII), of the importance of using outer space exclusively for peaceful purposes and of the need to promote international cooperation in the conduct of space activities. The legislative authority and direction of the programme is drawn from relevant Assembly resolutions and the decisions of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, which was established in 1959 by Assembly resolution 1472 (XIV), its Legal Subcommittee and Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and their subsidiary bodies. Recommendations of particular relevance for the work to be undertaken under this programme are contained in the resolution entitled "The Space Millennium: Vienna Declaration on Space and Human Development", adopted by the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III) and endorsed by the Assembly in its resolution 54/68.

5.2 By its resolution 59/2, the General Assembly reviewed the progress made in the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III and endorsed the Committee's Plan of Action, contained in the Committee's related report (A/59/174). The report also considered the achievements of the Committee and its Subcommittees following the introduction of their revised agenda structures in 2000 and paved the way for further strengthening their role in promoting the peaceful uses of outer space. The Plan of Action constitutes a long-term strategy for enhancing mechanisms at the national, regional and global levels for developing and strengthening the use of space science and technology and their applications to support overarching global agendas for sustainable development; developing coordinated, global space capabilities; supporting specific agendas to meet human development needs at the global level; and supporting overarching capacity development. In implementing that strategy, the Committee will provide a bridge between users and potential providers of space-based development and services by identifying the needs of Member States and coordinating international cooperation to facilitate access to the scientific and technical systems that might meet them. To maximize the effectiveness of its resources, the Committee adopted a flexible and unique mechanism that takes advantage of partnerships established between its secretariat, Member States, intergovernmental organizations and international non-governmental organizations to implement the recommendations of UNISPACE III.

5.3 The programme will strengthen the international legal regime governing outer space, resulting in improved conditions for expanding international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space. The implementation of the programme will also strengthen efforts at the national, regional and global levels, including among entities of the United Nations system and international space-related entities, to maximize the benefits of the use of space science and technology and their applications.

Objective of the Organization: to increase international cooperation among Member States and international entities in the conduct of space activities for peaceful purposes and the use of space science and technology and their applications towards achieving internationally agreed sustainable development goals

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	*Indicators of achievement*
(a) Greater understanding, acceptance and implementation by the international community of the legal regime established by the United Nations to govern outer space activities	(a) (i) Increased number of States and intergovernmental organizations that have adhered to or declared their acceptance of the five United Nations treaties on outer space. (ii) Increased number of States and intergovernmental organizations that have taken action to promulgate or enact legislative instruments governing the conduct of space activities and/or any other actions to implement the five United Nations treaties governing outer space activities
(b) Strengthened capacities of countries in using space science and technology and their applications in areas related, in particular, to sustainable development, and mechanisms to coordinate their space-related policy matters and space activities.	(b) (i) Increased number of countries, that have received assistance in using space science and technology and their applications to support national sustainable development programmes and activities (ii) Increased number of countries that have established coordination mechanisms within their Governments for matters relating to space activities
(c) Increased coherence and synergy in the space-related work of entities of the United Nation system and international space-related entities in using space science and technology and their applications as tools to advance human development and increase overall capacity development	(c) Increased number of United Nations system organizations and international space-related entities that have supported and co-sponsored the capacity-building activities of the Office for Outer Space Affairs

Strategy

5.4 The Office for Outer Space Affairs is substantively responsible for the implementation of the programme. The overall strategy of the Office in meeting the objective of the programme includes:

(a) Strengthening capacity, in particular of developing countries, in the development of national space law and legislation, in conformity with the international legal regime established by the United Nations to govern outer space activities, promoting increased opportunities for education in space law and supporting the progressive development of international space law;

(b) Supporting the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III, in particular those that have relevance to the goals identified in the Millennium Declaration and the actions recommended in the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the Plan of Action of the World Summit on the Information Society;

(c) Strengthening capacity, in particular of the developing countries, in the use and applications of space science and technology for sustainable development and increasing awareness of decision makers of the benefits of space science and technology and their applications to address societal needs for sustainable development through international cooperation among Member States and national and international space-related entities, including the private sector, as appropriate;

(d) Assisting in consensus-building among Governments and organs, organizations and programmes within the United Nations system, as well as intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and industries engaged in space-related activities, as appropriate, on the priorities and common objectives to be achieved through cooperation in the area of the peaceful uses of outer space.

Legislative mandates

General Assembly resolutions

1472 A (XIV)	International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space
1721 B (XVI)	International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space
2453 (XXIII)	International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space
3235 (XXIX)	Convention on the Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space
37/90	Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space
54/68	Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space
59/2	Review of the implementation of the recommendations of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space
59/115	Application of the concept of the "launching State"
60/99	International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space